The spores are extremely minute and occur in inconceivable numbers in the little black patches on the surface as well as inside the tissues of every diseased cane. They are capable of being dried up without losing their vitality and in this condition are blown about by the wind. There is no doubt but that in an infected area spores are constantly settling everywhere in the form of impalpable dust particles. We have thus to deal with a most insidious foe The greater portion of the surface of the cane is protected by a hard cuticle but the spores easily effect an entry at the broken leaf bases and the attack usually commences here. They also enter at any spot where the surface is injured or at a hole made by a boring insect or at a crack crused by exposure to sun or dry wind. Where the fungus exists in a stool or in a planted "top" it will assuredly grow into the young plant which shoots up thence. It is evident that some of the methods adopted by the ryot are calculated to spread the spores as widely as possible, and his method of planting and more especially of raising a second crop where the disease is prevalent are almost certain to ensure its recrudescence in an aggravated form.

5. *Measures which should be adopted.*—All land which has been under sugarcane this year should be sown with paddy, all cane roots which have been left in the ground wherever there has been any disease being taken up and burnt.

All the crushed cane and old leaves, and other litter should be burnt at once and none stacked for future use. This can easily be done now while the boiling is going on. The ash will be quite harmless and a most valuable manure.

The best plan to adopt where new gardens are being planted would be to secure "tops" from a perfectly healthy area, but this will not, I think, be feasible this year. The "tops" now at the gardens will have to be used but they should be carefully examined by cutting across at each end, and any showing red spots in the flesh scrupulously rejected and burnt.

Next year it will be necessary to consider the feasibility of importing seed or taking other measures, but it is now too late to do so this year.

MADRAS,
28th February 1898. (Signed) A. G. BOURNE.

ORDER—No. 127, Revenue, dated 3rd March 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Collectors of Godavari, Vizagapatam and Ganjam should be at once instructed to use every possible endeavour to induce the ryots to adopt the precautions mentioned by Dr. Bourne. The Collector of Godavari should report in what taluks the disease has been observed and the Collectors of all other cane-growing districts should ascertain and report whether the red spots and patches spoken of by Dr. Bourne, have ever been noticed when the cane has been cut or crushed. Wherever this has occurred, the precautions advised by Dr. Bourne should be pressed upon the ryots.

3. The Board should consider, with reference to the suggestion in paragraph 5 of the report, whether arrangements cannot be made for importing healthy "tops" for the use of ryots in infected areas.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)
Copy to Dr. Bourne, F.R.S.

Endorsement No. 127 A.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Under Secretary to Government.